(b) Prices paid by other manufacturers i.e. Nijjer Agro Foods Limited, Sandiala Guru, Amritsar and Agro Foods Punjab Limited, Abohar, were Rs. 700/- per ton.

The monthly average wholesale rate of tomatoes at the terminal markets of Jallandhar, Chandigarh, Delhi and Karnal markets during the last six months is given below:—

Punjab (Rs./qtl.)

Month	Jallandhar	Chandigarh	Delhi	Karnal
Jan. 91	564	370	526	471
Feb. 91	436	312	416	339
March 91	454	345	425	458
April 91	345	225	350	290
May 91	210	212	130	170
June 91	140	183	282	185

(c) The reason for difference in price paid is because of the distance to the factory, nursery for growing tomatoes, extension services provided, etc. The farmers were assured a buy back of a fixed quantity out of the production at a predetermined price when the contracts were signed with the farmers.

Deletion of Article 310 and provisions (a), (b) and (c) of Article 311(2) of the constitution

1702. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to delete Article 310 and provisions (a), (b) and (c)of Article 311 (2) of the Constitution which provide arbitrary dismissal of Government employees without showing any reason or giving any scope of self-defence; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) 'No, Sir'. Clauses (a), (b) and (c) of Article 311 (2) of the Constitution are necessary to deal with exceptional cases. The Supreme Court has also held that Article 310 and 311 are based on public policy and are in public interest and for public good.

Shrimps, rice and tea processing units of Pepsi Foods

1703. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the places where the shrimps, rice and tea processing units of Pepsi Foods located;

(b) whether these units are owned by Pepsi Foods; and

(c) if not, what arrangement Pepsi Foods has with the manufacture of the above items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) As per the information furnished by M/s. Pepsi Foods Private Limited, the location of its various units are as under:—

(i) Basmati Rice Processing: Zahura Hoshiarpur, Delhi, Karnal, Ludhiana.

(ii) Shrimps Processing: Calcutta, Bombay.

(iii) Tea Processing: Calcutta

(b) As per the information furnished by M/s. Pepsi Foods (P) Ltd. these units are not owned by it.

(c) As per the information furnished by M/s. Pepsi Foods (P) Ltd., it has entered into a leasing arrangement for the manufacture of the above products. Under the lease terms Pepsi Foods procures the raw materials, finances the working capital of the leased unit, supervises quality control and packaging development and the end product is branded under the company's own brand name.

Corruption Charges against IAS and other High Officials

1704. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increasing number of IAS and comparable categories of officers at various levels are being charged with committing irregularities and holding assets more than their incomes; what is the number of such officers investigated, charged, apprehended, suspended, discharged and dismissed during last three years; and

(b) what are the reasons for the decline in the standard of High level officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Payment of Commission to NIC for contracts

1705. KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that contracts between KOBE STEEL LTD. (KSL) Japan, and Gujarat State Fertilizers Company Limited (GSFC) for the supply of screw type Amonia Gas Compressor set in the year 1987, and between KSL Japan, and Saurashtra Chemicals for the supply of SRM oil free compressor set in the year 1986 have materialized: if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that KSL, Japan, used Nissho Iwai Corporation (NIC), a Japanese commercial company in India, as an agent in the above mentioned contracts; if so, how much commission was paid to NIC; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that NIC (Nissho Iwai Corporation) further used Indian sub-agents in these contracts and paid commissions to them; if so, who were these sub-agents and what services were provided by them to NIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) In March 1987, M|s. Gujarat State Fertilizers Company Ltd. (GSFC) purchased two screw type ammonia compressors from M|s Kobe Steel Ltd. (KSL), Japan, based on techno-commercial suitability and on competitive bidding. Saurashtra Chemicals purchased a screw compressor from Kobe Steel, which was commissioned in 1988.

Neither GSFC nor Saurashtra Chemicals paid any commission on the purchase; they have no knowledge about any commission having been paid to Nissho Iwai Corporation or its sub-agents.

Avenues of promotions to Stenographers cadre

1706. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the revised and pre-revised scales of pay and channels of promotions available to Senior Stenographers and above in Central Secretariat|Government Services as per Central Civil Services Rules, 1986 etc.: and

(b) what is the minimum required length of services, level of educational qualifications etc. prescribed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) A statement giving the information is attached herewith.